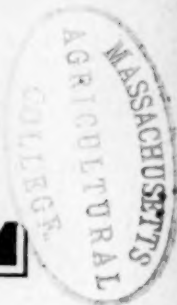


# AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

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DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE INTERESTS OF HONEY PRODUCERS



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## Contributed Articles.

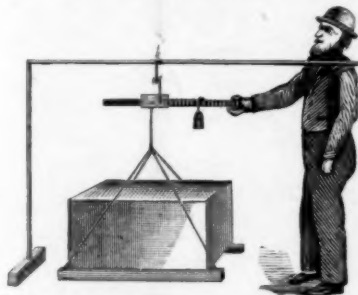
On Important Apian Subjects.

### Handy Arrangement for Weighing Hives.

BY L. G. CASH.

I will give my method of weighing hives to ascertain increase of honey or amount of winter stores in the hive.

Take four common screw-eyes (I use No. 108), and screw one in each corner of the bottom-board. Next take four stout



pieces of twine about 4 or 4½ feet long. Take four stout wire hooks and tie one to one end of each string, the other end of the four strings to be brought together and tied into a ring, or else made into a loop. The four wire hooks hook into the screw-eyes, making a swing to swing the hive.

Now take two pieces of 2x2 inch pine, about 5 feet long, and fasten the ends together with a common barn-door hinge, or strap-hinge, which will allow the two pieces to fold in the form of an inverted 7. To one end I nail a strip across, each side projecting about 8 inches, to form a "foot;" the other end rests on my shoulder. Fasten a hook or stout screw-eye about half way from the end on the shoulder and hinge; take a pair of old-fashioned steelyards, swing them to pull on the shoulder, hang on the strings below, and you have a pair of scales that beat carrying either hives or platform scales.

The bees need be disturbed but very little, as all that is necessary is to swing the hive clear of the ground, mark the weight of the empty hive on the under side of the cover, and when the super is put on add its weight, and the amount of honey in the hive can be easily ascertained.

The four screw-eyes are left in place permanently.  
Russellville, Mo.



### No. 6.—The Production of Comb-Honey.

BY EMERSON T. ABBOTT.

SECTIONS.

I have taken it for granted that no one in this day will think of trying to secure a first-class marketable article of comb honey without using sections. The market seems to demand that these sections should not weigh more than a pound when filled. I am quite sure, however, that bee-keepers have catered to this demand at a loss, for it is my candid opin-

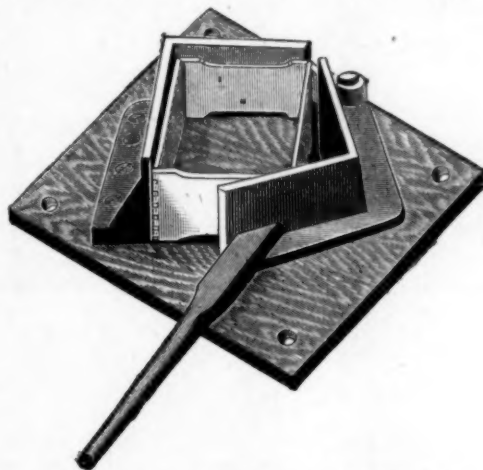
ion that a given number of bees will store more honey in a two-pound section than they will in a one-pound section. But if sections are used open all around, as illustrated in a former article, and no separators are used, the difference in favor of the two-pound sections will not be so great.

Also, I take it for granted that the sections used will be of the one-piece variety, as there are not enough of any other kind used at the present time to make them worth mentioning.

I do not think it pays to use anything but first quality of these, for surely they are the cheapest in the end, and will add enough to the looks of the honey to more than pay the difference. Of course, we must produce honey as cheaply as possible, in these days of poor crops and cheap things, but there is a possibility sometimes of getting things too cheap, and when it comes to No. 2 sections, or even cream for the producer of first-class comb honey, it is getting it down a little too fine, in my opinion. I prefer the 1½ section.

#### QUEEN-EXCLUDING HONEY-BOARDS, ETC.

I have said nothing about queen-excluding honey-boards, as I look upon them as a needless expense for the comb-honey producer. I have had a queen go into the surplus arrangement only once in ten years. Neither do I say anything about reversing, divisible brood-chambers, etc., as Michigan seems to have a patent on all of these things—and I am perfectly willing that she should keep them, with a lot of other, useless traps that are of no practical utility to the rank and file of bee-keepers; and, surely, a beginner has no more use for them than a dog would have for two tails. Their utility, in fact, is about the same. They would both make very good freaks for a museum. If anyone makes a business of reversing nowadays, I do not know it, and, as to a divisible brood-chamber, I will have to change my mind materially as to the



A Press for Folding One-Piece Sections.

benefits to be derived from it before I would think for a moment of using one, or recommending it to anyone else.

#### COMB FOUNDATION.

I have my own ideas about the use of comb foundation, and I may say just here, (for the benefit of Dr. Miller) I have

them about everything else for that matter. When I want some real, delicate, superfine comb honey for my own table, I do not use anything but very small starters, and I want those made out of the very thinnest foundation that can be had. I have a notion that bees will make just a little finer quality of comb when they secrete their own wax than they will if foundation is given them. However, there is not enough difference in quality to cause the general public to pay any more for the honey. This being the case, and concluding that most people are in the comb-honey business "for revenue only," I would recommend the use of full sheets of foundation of the very best quality that can be had. When I say "best quality," I mean the thinnest and whitest foundation that can be made out of pure beeswax. I would never think of using in the sections for full sheets anything but "extra thin." I think the honey-producer who uses any other grade runs a risk of injuring his reputation, for a producer of the finest quality of goods.

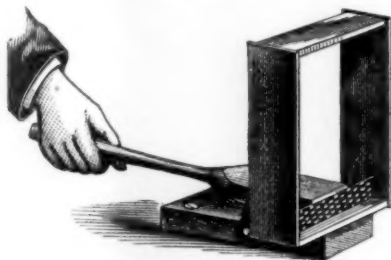
While I recommend the use of foundation, yet I am aware there are certain times and conditions when full sheets will not be found of as much value as some people would have us believe. If the honey-flow is a long one and comes in very slowly, I doubt if the benefit derived will pay for the outlay; but where the honey comes in rapidly, and all of the conditions exist for getting a first-class article, then there is no question in my mind as to the advantage of full sheets of foundation.

#### WHEN TO PREPARE THE SECTIONS.

Many of the bee-books and writers on the subject of apiculture say get the sections all ready in the winter. They say the bee-keeper has nothing else to do then, and he should get everything ready for the coming season. This is all well enough as to hives, but when it comes to making up sections and putting in foundation, I say don't do it. It all sounds very nice to say you have everything ready in advance, but sections prepared in advance will never be in as good condition as those prepared just before they are needed.

A crate of sections should never be opened until the bee-keeper is ready to put them on the hive. If he has so many colonies that he cannot do this work himself, it will pay him better to hire some help than to make them up in the winter. Just as soon as sections are exposed to the air they begin to darken, and then the dust settles upon them and soils them more or less.

Then, it is also much better to leave the foundation in a box until the time comes to put it on the hive, as it will be fresh and free from dust, and the bees will go into the sections without any trouble. With a good section press and a foundation fastener a large quantity of sections can be prepared in a very short time, and such sections will come off of the hive in much better condition than will those which are made up in the winter and left for two or three months exposed to



The Parker Foundation Fastener.

the air and dust. I use the Parker foundation fastener and the section press, illustrated on this and the previous page.

Another thing I would never do is to use old sections which have been partially drawn out the year before. Many advocate having the combs drawn out in advance. I think this a serious mistake, as I am confident that the comb will never be as delicate and tender as it would if it had been filled with honey at the time it was drawn out. Then, such honey is more apt to sour in the combs than honey which is put in slowly as the comb is drawn out.

By the use of full sheets of comb foundation the bees are able to prepare the combs as fast as they need them, and much better results are secured than when drawn-out combs are used. One should so manage as to have as few empty sections left over as possible, and unless those are in very fine condition, it will pay to throw them away and put in fresh ones.

St. Joseph, Mo.

## Do Bees Pollenize Strawberry Blossoms?

BY HON. EUGENE SECOR.

I notice on page 190 that ex-president Abbott takes exceptions to my statement that bees do not pollenize strawberry blossoms. I wrote that sentence after a good many years' observation, and with a good many pangs of regret, because it was contrary to a long-cherished desire I had of proving to my horticultural friends that bees were necessary to insure a strawberry crop.

I have raised strawberries and kept bees for 20 years. I have many times gone to my strawberry-patch when the plants were in bloom, but scarcely ever found a bee working on the blossoms. So I wrote that sentence advisedly. I did not dare to stand before such an intelligent lot of men as compose the State Horticultural Society of Iowa, and utter a different sentiment. I should have expected criticism. Many of them are bee-keepers also. No one objected to the statement I made.

In confirmation of my theory that bees are not necessary to pollenize strawberry blossoms, I will state that I came to this county before a bee—either domesticated or wild—had ever entered it. At that time wild strawberries were just as abundant and fruitful as now. This fact, coupled with my later observations, led to the penning of that sentence.

Another reason for my belief is the practice of strawberry-growers. When pistillate, or imperfect varieties, are planted for the main crop, every second or third row is set with staminate, or perfect-flowering kinds, to insure a crop. If the bees did the pollinizing, surely the kinds would not need to be so closely planted.

But please understand that I am not arguing to support a theory, but to account for a fact—according to my observation.

Now since this matter has been brought up so prominently, it is desirable to get at the truth. If my locality is an exception to the rule, and if bees elsewhere do work on strawberry blossoms, I shall be most glad to acknowledge their helpfulness. For, as I said, I wanted to believe they were necessary to the strawberry-grower.

I would be pleased to have the testimony of bee-keepers or others who have made observations along this line. I want the facts rather than theories. I don't believe it is beneficial to bee-keepers in arguing with horticulturists to claim more than we can prove. They are as intelligent and observing as we. We must stick to facts. Bring on your witnesses.

Forest City, Iowa.



## Spring Feeding to Stimulate Brood-Rearing.

BY C. DAVENPORT.

There has been a good deal said and written about feeding in the spring for the purpose of stimulating brood-rearing in order to have a large force of workers at the right time. Some claim there is a big advantage in this, and others say the benefit that can be derived from it is very slight; and I remember reading one article which claimed that much harm was done by spring feeding.

I do not think there is any doubt that there is a big profit in both spring and early summer feeding in some seasons. Some years we can get a paying crop without, while in others, at least with me, it is impossible to do so. Not that there is no honey to gather, but because there has not been enough to be had before the main flow to enable brood-rearing to be kept up as it should have been. Consequently, when the flow did come, there would not be enough workers to store much surplus. But in my opinion, if there is anything about bee-keeping that requires skill and judgment, it is this kind of feeding. For in this locality the season, amount of stores in the hives, and other things, must be considered in regard to the time to commence, or whether to commence at all—amount to be fed, and how long it should be continued. There is much more about it than I know, or probably ever will know, but some of the things I do know may interest, and possible benefit, some that have not had much experience in this kind of feeding.

Of course we could use hives large enough to hold plenty of stores, so that feeding would not be necessary in such seasons. These are a good kind of hive, if one is keeping bees merely for those things to be found in bee-keeping that we would not sell for money if we could. I think I find as many of those things as anybody, but at the same time, in order to pay expenses, make a living, and lay up a little for a rainy day, I have to make considerable money with them, too. And for the comb-honey producer those big hives are a failure, especially in such seasons as we are having right along now. In using them, if we do not feed in poor seasons, it takes most of the white honey to fill them up, and after they are full the



bees will not work in the sections as readily as they will when they are in a smaller hive. We want the white honey in sections, and then we can let them secure winter stores from fall flowers, if we are in a locality where the honey from such makes suitable winter food. If it does not, or there is no fall flow, we can feed sugar. I consider a pound of the best granulated equal to a pound of clover or basswood honey for winter stores; and there is a difference of 10 cents a pound, and often more, between the two. If we allow 30 pounds for winter stores, this will make a difference of \$300 on 100 colonies. This will pay us well for our time in feeding. I am not going to give any theory about it, but I will say the largest yields I ever got were from colonies in 8 and 10 frame hives.

Another thing I would like to say is, that the most prolific queens are not the best, in many cases. I have had some very poor queens that were very prolific. Some of the very best Italian queens I now have, or ever have had, are hardly able to keep 8 Langstroth frames full during the time they should be kept full. Very likely many that read this will think I do not know what a good queen is, and I feel quite sure this will be the case when I say that last summer I killed a \$6 breeding queen that was prolific and equal to at least 10 frames. But that is not the worst. A year ago last summer I sold for \$1 a two-year-old imported Italian queen that cost me over \$9. I did not need a dollar very badly, either. But if one was to buy some that I have, and I think they are good, the price they would have to pay would make them think that they ought to be good.

Now as to the time to commence feeding in the spring. I do not think, as a general thing, it has paid me to feed much before fruit-bloom, and not even then, if the bees could secure enough from it to keep brood-rearing going on as rapidly as it should at this time. But if they do not, it has always paid me well to feed. In this locality there are no flowers after fruit-bloom until white clover. I generally feed a good deal during this time. If we commence to feed we must keep it up until there is some to be had from the fields, or else stop gradually, for if we get the brood-nest full of brood, and then stop all at once, if there is not much food in the hive, and none in the fields, the brood will necessarily be thrown out, or else starve to death, and then, as a general thing, here in the North such a colony is ruined for that season, as far as surplus honey is concerned. But on the other hand, we must not feed too much. If we do, with small hives, we will restrict the room in the brood-nest, and thus prevent the very object for which we are feeding, namely, a large force of workers to gather the flow which we hope for and expect will come later.

But shortly before the time for the main flow to commence, feed heavy if we wish to fill the brood-nest with sugar stores. Whether this is best or not, in a locality where there is a fall flow, I do not know. I have practiced this somewhat, and I think under the right management, it can be made to pay. But my advice to the inexperienced is to try this on a small scale at first. There are certain difficulties, and much more to learn about this than there is to simply feed enough to secure a large force of workers. In feeding for this purpose, I do not think it is necessary to feed every day. I never feed more than every second day, and a good deal of the time only every third or fourth day. But I think we can push brood-rearing much more rapidly when we wish to, by feeding a small amount every second or third day, than we can by giving a large feed all at once, or a frame of honey for feeding.

I use a good deal of poor and inferior honey and honey-dew when I have it. Such as is not fit for winter stores can be extracted, and by judicious feeding at the right time it can be converted, as it were, into many times its weight of white honey. I do not want any more honey-dew for winter stores. Some winters bees appear to winter on it all right; in others they will not. There was a good deal of it gathered here last fall. I put about 100 colonies in with this honey-dew, and the loss so far is about 20 per cent. Very likely it will be 50 per cent. before May—perhaps more. A good many of these hives were badly spotted by the first of January, but as far as I have been able to observe, honey-dew answers every purpose as well as the best honey, when the bees can fly.

When I feed sugar I use the best granulated. I have tried cheap brown sugar, both dark and light, and such as we can get here is not fit to feed bees at any time. There is something in it that does not agree with them.

Now a few words about feeders. I use the Miller for all kinds of feeding, and I think this, or some kind in which we can feed during the daytime without danger of robbing, is best; for here, even quite late in the spring, the nights will often be so cool that bees will not take feed readily from a feeder that is set outside near the entrance, and if they would when the nights are cool, I think it is much better to feed in

the morning, and then the feed will be carried below by night, and they will keep quiet and protect the brood better.

Any feeder or method we use in which it is necessary to use smoke every time we feed, is a bad thing. The less bees are smoked and disturbed in the spring, the better.

To illustrate the benefit that can be derived from feeding in some seasons, let me describe one of the out yards. Last year feeding was necessary to secure a crop. The bees in this yard were mostly in 8-frame hives—a few were on 10-frames. The surplus to be gathered from this yard was white clover, basswood and fall flowers. There was but very little fruit-bloom in reach of this yard. About this time feeding was commenced, and continued right through the white clover season, for at first it was so cold at night that it did not yield any, and towards the last it dried up. But in the home yard, about 13 miles from this, white clover yielded enough to keep brood-rearing up, and considerable honey-dew was secured in the spring, which formed on box-elder leaves. I never saw the conditions vary in a few miles as they did last year in this out-yard. Practically nothing was to be had until basswood, which was fair, but it did not last long, but the bees were ready for it, and secured what there was—about 53 pounds per colony in one-pound sections.

Each of these colonies were fed about 30 pounds of sugar, which, at 5 cents per pound, would be \$1.50 per colony. Fifty pounds of honey at 15 cents a pound would be \$7.50 per colony. Now to deduct \$1.50 per colony for sugar will leave \$6 per colony. They also secured enough from fall flowers to winter on, and about 12 pounds of surplus per colony, but we will not say anything about this—we will say the basswood honey was all they got, and we had to feed 30 pounds more sugar for winter stores—this would make \$1.50 more to subtract from \$6.00, which would leave \$4.50 per colony. In this yard there were 127 colonies, and this would have left \$571.50 from this yard to pay for the work. Reader, do you see the point? Suppose these colonies had been in big hives, and had 30 pounds of honey in the spring, they would certainly have used this up if they had not been fed, and they would also have certainly put that 50 pounds of basswood honey in the brood-nest. And, say it took 30 pounds of it to keep them until the next spring, they would have only 20 pounds for another start. They would not have secured any more per colony, or as much, if they were larger, for there were bees enough in this yard to gather all, and more than there was to be had from it, and it did not cost any more, if as much, to rear them in small hives as it would in larger ones. If we would carry the matter out, and count the fall honey, the small hives would come out much farther ahead. With big hives, where no feeding is done, the season is often an entire failure.

If this is not thrown into the waste basket, in my next I will have something to say about swarming, for probably many of you will think that bees, especially if they are in small hives, and fed up as I have described, will swarm before, or right in the midst of, the flow. Southern Minnesota.



### An Ominous Cloud in the Horizon.

BY M. H. S. BURLEIGH.

"Protection to American industry" has been, for a good many years, the magic political slogan at the sound of which millions have danced. We see, in our mind's eye, an American mechanic covered with a shipload of British goods, nearly smothered. A patriotic Congressman comes to the rescue, throws the goods into the ocean, and the mechanic arises and resumes his toil. So far as that side of the question goes, I have nothing to say. Let those journals discuss it that are built for that purpose. Just now I wish to speak of at least one American industry that deserves the protection of six feet of sod over it. It is not a British industry, but characteristically American. It is an industry which has systematically injured a host of our commonest articles of food, and has thrown unnumbered thousands out of work. The name of this delightful beverage is glucose. Some time ago I read of the destruction of a factory where it is made. The quantity of glucose produced at this one factory, in the course of a year, caused the production of all other sweets to take a back seat so far as quantity is concerned, common sugar alone excepted. The yearly output was 840 tons—an amount sufficient, with that made elsewhere, to form the principal ingredient in every pound of honey, every gallon of molasses, syrup, and jelly, and all the confectionery, produced in the United States. I do not know whether beer is made any worse by the liberal use of glucose in it or not; but doubtless it aggravates renal troubles which pure beer alone simply induces.

That this vile stuff is a fraud is plainly evidenced by the fact that it is nowhere advertised and sold as such. It is made in quantities like a river; but without any flourish of trumpets it disappears, and where does it go? Do you know of an eater who calls for glucose in his food? I don't. The fact is, it makes its way to the dark cellars of our cities, and is there mixed with syrups worth 50 cents a gallon, or about 5 cents per pound in a pure state. Here the American mechanic in Louisiana is robbed directly of the difference between 5 cents and the price of glucose, and the latter can be had in Chicago for 2½ cents. Then the robbery is perpetrated again on the buyer, and the greatest damage is finally done to the eater. If the robbery were done by an Englishman, our tariff would be revised. For one, I feel as willing to be plucked by a man in England as by one in New England.

For years I have not bought a pint of New Orleans molasses or syrup. I want some very much, and it is offered; but its very handsome appearance satisfies me that it is wedded to glucose, and I can't bear that. And right here is where we honey-producers must open our eyes. We have already had rumblings of the trouble. We know very well that the mixer of glucose with honey is in the land; and although he is carefully watched, and honey of undoubted purity can be obtained, still the danger is over us.

What American industry needs is protection from fraud more than from competition. We need a law that will cause glucose to be sold on its merits, and under its own name. If a man sells maple syrup of less than a certain degree of thickness, in this State, or labels his can with letters less than inch high, he is fined; but the mixer of glucose can compound his wares just about as he pleases—at least, he gets rid of an amount that surpasses any mental conception of it.

But just as soon as I begin to think of a law to rectify this matter, I begin to feel wearied; for the most reasonable food laws ever brought before Congress have been killed there in committee session, for the law-makers themselves were elected by the very corporations we ought to fight.

If somebody would give us accurate figures, showing how much labor is displaced annually in the United States by adulterants, it would make very interesting reading.

Who knows but beeswax itself will eventually fall among the list of articles that are so skillfully adulterated that detection will be almost impossible? Imprisonment for life is none too good for a man who adulterates food.

Cincinnati, Ohio.



## No. 1.—Bits of Experience, and a Few Questions Suggested by Them.

BY T. I. DUGDALE.

Although still on the sunny side of 40, the writer has had about 20 years of actual practice in the care and management of bees, and can place them among earliest recollections of boyhood when at home on the farm where my father kept a few colonies in a long, open shed facing the south, at the end of the garden.

Of course it is almost needless to add that they were kept in box-hives, which were from 12 to 14 inches square and about 18 inches deep inside, with sticks across the middle to help hold up the combs. The bees were the common blacks—the only race of which anything definite was known here at that time. The only way in which the coveted sweets stored by the bees was secured, was the brimstone pit, and many colonies I have seen destroyed in this way.

Later on came the plan of boring a big hole in the top of the hives and putting big boxes or caps, as they were often called, on the tops of them into which the bees sometimes put some honey, but many more times did not. Driving the bees out into an empty hive and appropriating the contents of the old hive to the family supply, was also tried, and usually resulted disastrously to the bees; owing, no doubt, to the fact that it was not done at a proper time of the season, this plan was soon abandoned entirely.

Some time during the '70's, I think, as will be remembered by at least some of the older readers, we had an unusually severe winter for bees, when it was believed that fully ½ of the colonies in this country died, as they were mostly wintered on the summer stands with no other protection but the hives they were in. My father had some 8 or 10 colonies at that time, but only two succeeded in getting through till spring alive—one colony very strong, the other very weak.

About this time I had become quite interested in the bees, and began to read about all of the little that was then written on the subject, and having secured my fathers' consent to manage them, I concluded to equalize them by exchanging

stands with the two hives. As it was early in the spring, the result was that they went to fighting and robbing, and both soon dwindled down to nothing, and the moth-worms completed the job by destroying the combs.

One thing that I was at a loss to account for at that time was that the colony that was so strong in numbers was in an old hive with a crack in one side from top to bottom, large enough for the bees to pass through for nearly its entire length; while all those hives in which the bees died, were sound from top to bottom. I wonder if that crack in that hive did not serve a good purpose as a ventilator in allowing the moisture to pass away from the cluster. And I wonder if cold ever directly kills a colony of bees if all other conditions are just right.

About this time I began to have the impression that perhaps theory and practice might be two entirely different things. I am still a good deal inclined that way. And not to be discouraged by my first attempt, I bought a fine, large swarm of a neighbor who found them, paying \$5.00 for them, which was the common price in those times. They filled the hive that season, and stored 10 or 15 pounds in square boxes with glass sides, these being the first I had ever used. I succeeded in wintering my one colony the following winter, and also procured directions and made my first frame hives. Then began the study and actual practice which soon enabled me to fathom at least some of the mysteries which had puzzled me so much before. During the next two years I increased my colonies to 15, by natural swarming, and sold enough honey to pay all expenses.

My father then sold the farm, and in order to dispose of implements, stock, etc., made an auction sale, at which I also sold my bees at an average price of \$15.00 per colony. Thus I secured \$75.00 in two years from an investment of \$5.00. Previous to this time there was not to exceed 50 colonies of bees within a radius of two miles from this place. At this time there is upwards of 200 colonies within the same distance, and I wonder if that may not have some bearing on the question of poor seasons, of which we hear so much of late.

After leaving home I secured a position with Mr. J. H. Nellis, of Canajoharie, N. Y., who was at that time quite extensively engaged in rearing queens and making and dealing in bee-keepers' supplies. Here I first saw the Italian bees, and gained much practical knowledge in the successful management of them. At this time what was known as the "Nellis hive" was brought to the public notice, and I might add that I constructed the first one ever made, from plans gotten out by Mr. Nellis. Also the Hoffman frame was offered to the public for the first time with this hive.

Comb foundation also was in its infancy. The first I ever saw was a medium cell between drone and worker size, made by A. I. Root. Here theory and practice did not seem to agree, as the odd size did not give the desired results. Very soon after this Mr. Nellis purchased a mill of regular worker size, and began the manufacture of foundation.

West Galway, N. Y.

[To be continued.]



## "Talking Back" an Important Element in Modern Bee-Literature.

BY F. L. THOMPSON.

It is worth while to give some attention to the methods of acquiring information, as well as to the information itself. Modern education rests on that assumption.

In the December Review, Mr. Hasty has this to say on conventions: "Man is apt to meet instruction as a cabbage-leaf meets rain—shed it all off. But when people meet together for a definite good purpose, when the gathering is properly engineered, and things work just right, a curious and indefinable something comes down and takes possession of all hearts. Enthusiasm and open-mindedness make everything good strike in." This influence, he says, cannot be transferred to print.

True enough. And yet I have often wondered if printed matter might not improve in that direction, so that it would come three or four degrees nearer the inspiring influence of conventions. It is a somewhat narrow view, after all, that when bee-papers contain anything but fresh ideas, once stated, they are printing superfluous matter. Every one has had the experience that the clinching of an idea was as valuable to him as the idea itself, or the refutation of an idea was as valuable as he thought the original one was going to be. This new sensation, often repeated, is partly what makes a convention. The extent of that repetition cannot be transferred to print, it is true. It would produce an effect something like the constant printing of inferior jokes. However



much we may enjoy the latter in conversation, they somehow fall flat when printed. So, then, there is a limit beyond which print cannot go, in making things lively, and at the same time preserving its standard of value; but has that limit yet been reached? I think not.

The semi-occasional reviews of Mr. Demaree, and the notes and comments on every issue that Dr. Miller made awhile ago, and the occasional back-and-forth talking by other contributors, were read, by me at least, with a peculiar interest, which differed only in degree, but not in kind, from the regular convention feeling. And the final result was that my mind had a clearer perception of some things than would otherwise have been the case. But we cannot depend upon the old stagers to keep up that sort of thing. They have too much else to do. And, besides, we want to know once in awhile what *everybody* thinks about something, as well as the leaders.

The "improvement of bee-literature" movement is, in my opinion, quite as important in this line as any other. We can now depend upon the editors (whether we could or not several years ago does not concern us) to keep out most twaddle. It would be asking too much to expect them to keep it all out, for that is an exceedingly difficult matter; and tastes differ, anyway.

If contributors would not only occasionally, but often, tell what they thought of other contributions, either by confirming or criticising, it would be the nearest approach we could make to a convention all the year around. Healthy criticism hurts nobody; it is the diseased, cantankerous article that is worse than none. And confirmation is sometimes just as necessary. It has often been my experience, in reading the bee-papers, that a practical hint was passed unnoticed until attention was called to it from another quarter. Arvada, Colo.

[The American Bee Journal is quite willing that the "continuous-convention idea," approved by Mr. Thompson, shall find a place in its columns. But let all "talking back" be done in a courteous way, and with the intention of adding some real good to the general store—not simply for the sake of finding fault, or just to show ability to "talk back." When properly done, much good will result, just as suggested by Mr. Thompson.—THE EDITOR.]



### A Few Home-Made Conveniences.

BY A. F. CROSBY.

I want to tell how I handle my bees from the time they swarm until they are in the cellar. A few years ago, in swarming time, I had 4 swarms come out, and all went together in spite of all that I could do. It was a great perplexity to me. I worked with them nearly all day, got very tired, and I told my wife that I would have some way fixed that would relieve me of such perplexity. I got my supper, started down town, which is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile away, bought a handcart, the box of which is about 30 by 48 inches. I took out the tailboard, set in a Langstroth hive clear back, with the entrance forward toward the handles. I set up a side board on either side, of  $\frac{3}{4}$  boards, as high as the box against the side boards, with a board nailed on the back end of each at right angles, that goes in tight against the side of the hive clear to the front end, so that the bees cannot get back under the hive. I key it up if necessary, so that the hive cannot move. This leaves the opening in front of the hive about 30x30 inches. Now the hive is all ready, in the cart.

Now when the swarm begins to cluster, as mine generally do, on the lower limbs of a fruit-tree, I run the cart (the opening in front of the hive) under the cluster. If I see another swarm coming, I give the limb two or three shakes, and the queen is down in front of the hive. I take the cart and start for the stand, and by the time I get there the greater part will be in the hive. I set the hive on the stand, and brush the remainder out in front of the hive. The bees that are in the air when I start for the stand will mostly follow up and go into the hive while I am going to the stand. Now, in 10 minutes after they begin to cluster, at most, it's all done. I have had no more trouble with swarms going together.

I want to tell about my wheelbarrow. I made it very light for holding one colony of bees. It is on springs. It stands level when at rest. I put the scales on it, and run it wherever I want to weigh, and I had a good deal of that to do last fall.

I have a railroad for putting the bees into the cellar. It is 8 feet in and 8 feet out of the cellar window. I put on the

cart four hives. The cart is also on springs. I run it up to the cellar window, set the hives on the car, which also holds four hives. I run them inside, then go in and put them around. I put in 60 colonies in a few hours last fall without help, with ease. Now, without this I could not do half as much, for I am about 77 years old. I hope some one will be benefitted by my experience. That 86-year-old man mentioned in the Bee Journal awhile ago, would find it much easier to handle his 61 colonies of bees.

Later I may tell about my solar wax-extractor, bee-escapes and honey-room with window to turn the bees out-doors—all my own make, and lots of other improvements. My bees seem to be doing nicely so far (Feb. 7). I am taking on new courage and interest in reading the improved American Bee Journal. I have not much else to do now.

Sheffield, Iowa.

## Questions AND Answers.

CONDUCTED BY

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.

[Questions may be mailed to the Bee Journal, or to Dr. Miller direct.]

### Carrying Out Immature Bees.

A certain colony of my bees have for several days been carrying out a few immature bees, dead. These bees seem to have been capped over a day or two, judging from the size. Is anything wrong, probably? The colony has plenty of honey and workers. I would examine, but they are in a box-hive, and have not yet been transferred. W. L. G.

Forest City, N. C.

ANSWER.—I hardly think there's any serious trouble. It is nothing remarkable to see immature bees carried out, and this is caused sometimes by the depredation of the wax-worm.

### Queen-Rearing—Basswood—Unwired Combs.

1. What is the best book on queen-rearing, and by whom published or sold?
2. I have 6 colonies. If they go through the winter can I rear enough queens to sell to pay me to advertise, and also to increase to about 12 colonies, if the season is favorable?
3. Will the basswood thrive and produce honey as far down as southeast Kentucky?
4. Can the extractor be used where frames are not wired, without injuring the combs? J. J. W.

Mayking, Ky.

ANSWERS.—1. Doolittle's "Scientific Queen-Rearing" is, I think, the only work exclusively devoted to that subject, and is to be had from the office of the American Bee Journal.

2. I don't know. Something depends on the season, and still more upon yourself. If you have never reared many queens, I should hardly advise any advertising till after you have had considerable experience. There are a great many queen-breeders, and a new man coming on the field has less chance than those with established reputations. If you have such a season as many bee-keepers had the past year, you'll not be able to double your number without heavy feeding. Now I'm not going to offer you any direct advice, for sometimes that's dangerous in such cases, but if some beginner should ask you whether you advise him to sell queens, just say to him, "You let that sort of thing alone till you know more about rearing good queens."

3. I think it will.

4. Yes, I used them for years before anything was known about wiring. But with new combs unwired you have to be very careful. If I had good unwired combs, I wouldn't discard them, but I wouldn't think of starting any new ones without wiring, whether to be used for extracting or not.

### Queen Laying on the Outside of a Comb—How Many Colonies Can be Profitably Kept?

1. Last summer, in one of my old box-hives that has a glass in the back of the hive to look at them, I noticed the queen right inside the glass, and looking closely I saw that she was laying eggs, and the workers taking the eggs into their mouths and disappearing, then took another one without

going away with the first one. Now I would like to know what they did with those eggs, and what was the cause of the queen laying her eggs simply on the outside of the comb and the workers disposing of them in such a mysterious way.

2. I would like to know how many bees I could keep in this locality. There are no basswood trees around here, only a few poplar, some white clover, raspberry, blackberry, and plenty of cherry trees. G. E. U.  
Halifax, Pa.

ANSWERS.—1. I'd give a good deal to have seen what you did. It was a very unusual sight, and some would even be inclined to say that you must have been mistaken about it. There has been quite a little discussion as to whether workers ever carried eggs. Some say they do and some say they don't. As to why the queen laid eggs there without depositing them in cells, and what the workers did with the eggs, I can only say I don't know. Possibly the queen had filled all available room, and was exploring on the outside of the combs for more room, and failing to find proper places simply extruded the eggs for her own comfort; and then if I wanted to theorize further, I might say that the workers lugged off the eggs and put them in queen-cells. But the real truth is that I don't know a thing about it.

2. I'm sorry to say that your second question is about as hard to answer as the first. That "some white clover" is the thing I'd like most to know about. It may mean enough to keep 100 colonies busy, and there may not be enough to keep 10 out of mischief. Again, much depends upon the number of bees about you. If there are only a dozen colonies within two miles, you may have a fine location, and if there are many within the same distance it might be troublesome for a good-sized apiary at your home to store a pound of surplus. Making a guess at what is the usual thing, I should say that you might try increasing till you reached 50 or 75, and then if you saw no diminution for two or three years, you might be safe to increase a little more. But you'll find it an extremely hard thing to settle just how many colonies can be most profitably supported in your field.

#### What Disease is It?

Suppose a swarm shows foul brood through early summer, and the latter part of the season the brood is all right, in same comb, what is such a disease called? C. V. B.

ANSWER.—I don't know. I think I should call it a mistake. For if it showed foul brood in early summer, I hardly think it would be gone later if nothing was done to it. Chilled brood in early summer might be present, and to a certain extent look like foul brood, but there's a difference of miles between the two.

## The Sunny Southland.

CONDUCTED BY

MRS. JENNIE ATCHLEY, BEEVILLE, TEX.

#### Queen Carried Out by the Bees.

JENNIE ATCHLEY:—I received a queen from a Massachusetts breeder, and introduced her, and afterwards I found her out on the alighting-board, nearly dead. I took her into the house and she came to life, and I returned her to the hive. 1. What caused her to leave the cluster, and expose herself to the cold, the colony being strong and healthy? 2. Will she be worth keeping, providing the accident does not occur again? North Yakima, Wash. ISAAC HAYS.

Friend Hays, so much depends that I am at a loss to know how to answer. Now, if you had made your colony queenless some days before you introduced the new queen, the bees may have reared a queen, and she hatched at about the time the young queen was carried out by the bees; you returned her, and she got killed, etc., and you likely did not discover it. Or it may have been the other way—the queen you introduced was taken out and the young one saved, etc. It may be that the only queen your bees had was dragged out from some unknown cause. But I am of the opinion that it was one of the first ways mentioned. I would watch this queen and her colony, and if everything works off properly, I think the queen will be all right for this season.

#### Questions on Bee-Keeping in the South.

JENNIE ATCHLEY:—At what price can land suitable for bee-keeping be bought in your part of Texas? At what price can bees be bought in the spring? What price do you get for comb and extracted honey? Do you winter your bees without any protection whatever? What are your main sources for honey—what plants or trees?

I intend to sell my bees next fall, and go to some place and make a specialty of bee-keeping. The coming season will be my twelfth summer in bee-keeping. I intend to locate somewhere where bees will need no winter protection. Here in Wisconsin we have them in the cellar nearly five months, and if the weather is unfavorable in the spring we seldom get them strong enough for our white honey crop, which starts the latter part of June. A. L.  
Calumet Harbor, Wis.

Friend L., I will answer your questions as accurately as I can: Land suitable for a good bee-ranch can be bought for \$5.00 per acre. Bees in the spring, in box-hives, are \$2.50 per colony; in latest improved hives, \$5.00 per colony is about the price where a person will take them at the beeyards. We get about 6 cents per pound for extracted honey, and 8 cents for bulk comb honey. Nice section honey brings 12½ cents per pound. Yes, we winter our bees without any protection, more than a common single-walled hive. Our main sources for honey are cat's-claw, horsemint, mesquite and chaparral.

#### Bees Stored Bitter Honey.

My bees are wintering very well. They have plenty of stores to carry them through until spring. They filled the brood-chamber with nice linden honey, and about the close of the flow I put the supers on. In the fall they filled them with bitterweed honey, nearly as bitter as quinine. What is such honey fit for? How can I keep them from "playing off" on me again? S. P. BREWER.  
Edom, Tex., Feb. 14.

Friend Brewer, I think your bitter honey will be excellent to winter bees on. I used to get, some seasons, in north and middle Texas, quite a lot of bitterweed honey, and I found this bitter honey as wholesome as any for bees, but not good to eat. I would keep the bees from fooling me next time by giving them room in the brood-nest to store it, and keep the supers off, unless they have full-sized frames; in that case, you can use the honey in feeding or stimulating in the spring. It would tickle me if I had about 40,000 pounds of that bitter honey this spring to make bees out of. If you get this honey every year, prepare to have it stored for your bees in winter, and take off the good honey.

#### Exchanging Larvæ in Queen-Rearing—Dipping Cell-Cups.

Jennie Atchley speaks, in her lessons on profitable bee-keeping, about exchanging the egg or larva in the queen-cells when the bees are preparing to swarm. Now I wish she would answer these questions: Could any one exchange the larva after the swarm has issued, as they almost always leave a number of cells uncapped? Could the capped cells be opened and the larva exchanged? I think Mrs. Atchley forgot to tell us how to dip queen-cells.

Did any one ever have the nameless bee-disease start in a colony of black or native bees, or is it confined to the Italians? Clayton, Mich. C. A. HUFF.

Friend Huff, in my lessons on queen-rearing, I am sorry I left out how to dip cells, and also that I did not make it more plain about grafting into natural cells. Well, to dip cell-cups I use a little stick about 4 inches long, one end made to fit inside a natural queen-cell, leaving a small part on the bottom of the stick just right to make a place in a cell-cup large enough to take in the cocoon of a cell, or the bottom of the cocoon, and move the cocoon, little larva and all, right into the bottom of the cell-cup.

To dip the cell cups I have a cup of melted wax, and at first make a short dip, and dip five or six times, going a little deeper every time until the cell-cup is about ¾ of an inch long. The best way to get all cell-cups of right length is to have a mark on the cell-stick where you wish the cap to come to, and dipping five or six times, first shallow, then deeper, etc. This gives the cell-cup a strong base, and the top a thin edge. Wet the stick in water before you dip the cups, each time, and when done, take hold of the cell-cup with one hand and



twirl the stick gently with the other, and it will come off easy.

It will not do to wait until the swarm issues to graft cells—it must be done while the larva is not over a day old, then the feed will suit the day old larva used in grafting. Cells could be torn open and shaved down after being sealed—take the larva, jelly and all, and place new jelly in the cup, and your larva would work. But I think it too slow.

I do not know that I have seen any reports of black bees having paralysis. But I supposed all kinds of bees are likely to have paralysis at times. I do not think the disease is confined to Italians alone. I have not seen a case of bee-paralysis in south Texas yet, that I know of.

#### Moisture, Not Cold, Kills Bees.

MRS. ATCHLEY:—I find my letter to you, on page 30 of the Bee Journal, all right, but it brought to my mind one fact that I will briefly state to you.

Some 10 years or so ago, while testing the matter of winter protection, I found myself with a small colony of bees and a nice queen that I desired to save. The thought came to me that this would be a good chance to test the matter of wintering, to see how a small colony would go through. For a hive I had a 5-frame ordinary Langstroth hive, made of  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch thick pine lumber. The bees fairly covered three Langstroth frames, so I put a frame of comb on the sides of the hive, and the three combs with bees and queen in the center, covering them with a half-story top for cover, filled with leaves, giving full entrance the whole with of the hive. The only other protection was a thick hedge on the north side of the hive.

The winter proved more than ordinarily severe, but this colony came through in good condition, and when opened in March the cells were nearly all filled with brood. I will say that I placed a substitute for Hill's device over the tops of the frames, so that the bees could travel from one frame to another over the whole top of the hive.

This doesn't prove a proposition, but is a piece of evidence. I have many such pieces, and putting them all together, makes proof that satisfies my mind that cold of itself doesn't kill our bees; but that excess of moisture does, by freezing, to be sure; but in such case the cold is secondarily the cause; and I believe if we so ventilate as to get rid of moisture, our bees will stand very severe cold weather.

I am not pig-headed in my ideas. I am constantly looking for more light. I give my impressions drawn from actual experiments, and know no better guide.

J. E. POND.

North Attleboro, Mass.

Friend Pond, your letter brings to mind the very points that I have many times tried to convince myself of, that it was not the cold itself that killed the bees, but the poison, I might put it, or moisture arising or accumulating, and no way to get out above. I for one am glad to get the evidence you bring out, and I think that when we have a fair sized colony of bees, with the proper ventilation, they will stand zero weather a long time.

I am glad to hear you say that you are not so set in your ideas that nothing will turn you. That is what we all ought to do—write our experience more and theories less, and be willing to "give in" when wrong.

**A B C of Bee-Culture.**—This is the fine cyclopædia of bee-keeping by A. I. Root, containing 400 pages and nearly 200 engravings. The regular price is \$1.25, postpaid, but until April 20 we make the following very liberal clubbing offers on this book: The American Bee Journal one year and the "A B C" bound in cloth—both for only \$1.80; or the parchment cover (very heavy paper) "A B C" and the American Bee Journal one year—both together only \$1.50. Remember, April 20 is the limit on these offers. Better order at once if you want a copy of this excellent bee-book.

**Only One Cent a Copy** for copies of the American Bee Journal before Jan. 1, 1895. We have them running back for about 10 years. But you must let us select them, as we cannot furnish them in regular order, and probably not any particular copies. Just send us as many one-cent stamps as you may want old copies, and we will mail them to you.

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## Notes AND Comments.

CONDUCTED BY

Rev. Emerson T. Abbott, St. Joseph, Mo.

**Gg Slow.**—"Failures in bee-keeping are very often due to the fact that too many are in such haste to go into the business, instead of growing into it."—Editorial in Nebraska Bee-Keeper.

I have noticed the same thing myself. The desire to get bees seems to come on some people like a mania, and though they know nothing about them, they are not content with one or two colonies, but must have a large apiary the first year. I think of one man now, who, being induced to try his hand at bee-keeping by hearing a speech which I made at a farmer's institute last fall, rushed out and bought 20 or more colonies in a few days. He had not had any experience with bees, and, notwithstanding I had advised him to begin with one or two colonies and increase as he learned, he was not content until he had 20 or more. Now, of course, I do not know how he will come out, but in nine cases out of ten, such people are bound to fail. They have but little knowledge of the economy of a bee-hive, and no practical experience, and they themselves would not think of trying any other industry with so little fitness for it. Bees can be left to keep themselves with but little knowledge, but if their owner intends to keep the bees that they may help keep him, he must know something about them. Many things about bees can only be learned by experience, therefore it is better, as Friend Stilson says, to "grow into bee-keeping."

**Candy and Dysentery.**—"The fact that cakes of candy were given to all known to be in need buoys up the hope that all will be well; but six weeks' continuous confinement, with no sign of a break in the weather at time of writing, engenders fears of dysentery in the weaker colonies."—W. Woodley, in British Bee Journal.


It seems that our friends over the water have caught onto the idea of sugar-cakes, but they call it candy, and, as per a quotation in a former note, think it should be soft. I asked why soft then, and now I want to ask, why fear dysentery from six weeks' confinement? I am inclined to think that it is not the confinement that causes disease, but bad food. I feel like saying again, how about the bees in Norway and Sweden that are confined twice six weeks, or more? One would think they would all die of dysentery, but do they? I hope Mr. Woodley will report later how these bees come through the winter.

**Why? Pray Tell:**—"There will seldom be any use for a queen-excluder on a ten-frame hive in running for extracted honey, while it almost becomes necessary to have a queen-excluder in an eight-frame hive when running for extracted honey."—J. W. Rouse, in Progressive Bee-Keeper.

I am very much at a loss to know why a queen-excluder would not be needed in one case as much as the other. It has been my experience that the queen very soon finds her way to the top of the hive when the hive is two story and filled with brood-combs; and I am thoroughly convinced that she will go there, if not prevented, just as quickly in a ten-frame hive as she will in an eight. I should not say "it almost becomes necessary" to have a queen-excluder, but it is *absolutely necessary* for either an eight or ten frame hive, if one wants to get rid of the nuisance of having brood in the combs from which he is extracting. I prefer honey to larva pap. There is no doubt, however, in my mind, but what a ten-frame is better than an eight for extracted honey, and I should not object to a twelve-frame, if I were running an apiary exclusively for the production of extracted honey.

**Raising Honey.**—"How to Raise Extracted Honey."—Title of a chapter in "Advanced Bee-Keeping."

Friend H. must have been in the dairy business. I have read of raising calves, of raising sheep, of raising horses, and it is said that some people have been known to raise the D-I, but I think it would be better to produce honey. But since I come to think of it, there is a "critter" known as a "Raising Bee," and perhaps he is the fellow that "raises" honey. They had 'em when I was a boy, but I did not know much about bees then, and cannot tell how much "honey" they "raised."



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## Editorial Budget.

**Honey-Dew Honey.**—The latter part of March I received a small sample of honey-dew honey, gathered in Crawford county, Ark. It was kindly sent by Mr. A. L. Reed, of Winslow, Ark. It is quite thick, and (to me) in color and flavor it is something like the heart's-ease honey of the North. Personally, I do not dislike the flavor, though it is quite probable that in the Chicago market it would find very little sale. Mr. Reed says of it: "The bees gather this in great quantities, and it finds ready market."

**Keeping Extracted Honey Liquid.**—An exchange says if extracted honey is closed up tight after it has become thoroughly ripened, it will keep indefinitely anywhere. If it is desired to keep it in the liquid form, then upon the approach of cold weather heat it to 150°, Fahr., or a little above, and seal it up while hot in cans or proper receptacles, and it will keep indefinitely anywhere until opened and exposed to the cold again.

**Importance of Bees in the Orchard.**—The Maryland Farmer says that in a series of experiments at the Oregon United States Experiment Station, in the pollination of the peach, the trees were forced under glass to bloom in November. A colony of bees was placed in the house, when the trees commenced to bloom. A heavy fog prevailed for 15 days, and although the flowers were constantly opening, not a bee showed itself. During the night of the 15th the fog lifted, and the next morning was bright and clear, causing the pollen to burst. Then the bees came from the hive and kept up their work for eight or nine days. The result was that not a single peach was observed to drop at the stoning season. So great was the amount of fruit on the trees that it was necessary to thin it.

One tree in the house was securely protected, so that the bees could not gain access to it, and all of the fruit dropped at the stoning period.

Mr. George Coote, horticulturist of the station, says that these facts show the value of bees to the horticulturist, and that no fruit-grower should be without them.

**The Northwestern and Illinois State.**—Mr. S. N. Black, the 1st Vice-President of the Illinois State Bee-Keepers' Association, writes as follows concerning the organizing of another Northwestern bee-keepers' association:

MR. EDITOR:—Referring to Mr. W. Z. Hutchinson's letter on page 204, I would say that if the interests of honey-producers will be advanced, go on and re-organize the "Northwestern," or call it by any name advisable.

I think I made the motion to accept the offer of the Northwestern to merge their organization into the Illinois State Bee-Keepers' Association. It was hoped that a stronger association would thus be formed. The Illinois Bee-Keepers' Association had, by strenuous efforts, secured an appropriation for publishing their proceedings, and this was one reason for the desire of the union of the two associations. Also, at that time there was talk of the State association making a display at the Columbian Exposition—which they did successfully.

During last year bees stored no honey in this part of the State, and the failure was pretty general throughout the State, so far as I can learn, and from correspondence and talk with bee-keepers, it was thought best by the executive committee to call no session of the Illinois bee-keepers' association at Chicago last fall.

A Bill has been offered in the legislature at the present term, for an appropriation for publishing the reports of the State association, and has, I believe, passed the Senate, but it is thought doubtful if it passes the house—a large portion of the opposition coming (I am told) from about Chicago.

I do not think that the union has been of benefit to the Illinois State Association—there have been but few of those who were members of the Northwestern seeming to take much interest in the united association. Whether the re-organization of the Northwestern will be a detriment to the Illinois State Association is another question; nor do I suppose those who wish the success of the Northwestern will stop long to consider. If it comes to the test, it will be a case of "the survival of the fittest."

I think the State association will most likely hold its annual meetings in the fall or winter. S. N. BLACK.  
 Clayton, Ill.

The following expression comes from Canada:

I desire to second Mr. Hutchinson's plea for a revival of the Northwestern. If held the end of September, some of us Canadian bee-keepers would get over to it, as we always have a cheap excursion to Chicago about Sept. 24. I can go from here to Chicago and return at that date for only \$10.  
 Guelph, Ont. WM. F. CLARKE.

Mr. R. Miller, of Compton, Ill., says in a letter dated March 30: "Yes, by all means have a yearly bee-keepers' convention in Chicago every fall."

Personally (and I think all others will agree) I am not in favor of doing anything that will in any way injure the usefulness or prosperity of the Illinois State Association. But it is thought by some that the Northwestern association occupied a special field—one that no State organization, or other, by whatever name, could possibly equal.

**New York Lawmakers** should have their salaries raised at once, if the following is a fair specimen of the hard work they have to do in the legislature:

A familiar Bill in past sessions at Albany makes it a felony for one man to entice away his neighbor's bees. It was introduced in all seriousness, but was killed by a Tammany leader who amended it twice. First, that each bee should wear a collar, and, second, that it should have the name and address of its owner stamped on its business end for identification.

Why not send good bee-keepers to help make the laws, and thus save the rest of the "would-be lawmakers" from making themselves a laughing-stock? Some of them haven't enough "business end" for "identification."

**Foreign Subscribers** will please remember that the subscription price of the American Bee Journal to them is \$1.50 a year instead of \$1.00. All places outside of the United States, Canada, and Mexico are "foreign," and the extra 50 cents is to cover the extra postage required. Please remember this, my foreign brother.



## Among the Bee-Papers

Conducted by "GLENER."

### SIZE OF BROOD-NEST.

Of late there has been much discussion in Gleanings as to the size of brood-nest, the general drift being toward larger than many had been using. Now come Schumack Bros., in Australian Bee Bulletin, saying: "We use frames 16 inches long and 9 inches deep for the brood-nest, and six of them, with a good queen, will be found all that's required to keep a hive well stocked with bees." What will be said to that by those who want 10 or 12 frames an eighth larger in size?

### GETTING COMBS BUILT DOWN TO THE BOTTOM-BAR.

Geo. Colbourne lets the bees build their combs down to within a few inches of the bottom-bar, then puts them in an upper story to be completed, and in ninety-nine cases in a hundred they will finish them down to the bottom-bar; whereas, if left below till rounded off with a space between the comb and bottom-bar, no change would be made in that space when put above.—Australian Bee-Bulletin.

### NEW BEE-DISEASE IN AUSTRALIA.

W. S. Pender describes in the Australian Bee-Bulletin a new bee-disease, which, like foul brood, makes the larvæ turn brown, with cappings dark, slightly sunken, and often perforated; but the larvæ retain their shape until dried up to a black scale, showing no signs of ropiness. The disease attacks unemerged fully developed bees in the cells, which dry up retaining perfect shape. No stench, not even the stench of decaying bees. Let us hope the disease may not take in this continent in its travels.

### MICHIGAN'S EXPERIMENTAL APIARY.

Experimenter Taylor reports in Review that during the past year he tried Conser's non-swarming hive and Langdon's non-swarmers, but with no definite conclusions, partly owing to the bad season. Tried two colonies of the "so-called" five-banded bees, and finds no fault with their working qualities, so far as he could judge in so bad a season, but doesn't boast of their gentleness, and one colony were desperate robbers.

### PROFITS FROM ALSIKE CLOVER.

Thirty acres of Alsike are thus reported in Gleanings by Frank Coverdale: 90 bushels seed, \$540; 40 tons good hay, \$240: \$250 worth of honey that he wouldn't have had but for Alsike; making more than \$1,000 for the 30 acres, to say nothing of the aftergrowth and the fine condition in which the land is left for future crops.

### DRONES FROM VIRGIN QUEENS.

Mr. Wells, quoted on page 189, decides they are bad, because his queens were not fecundated "until natural drones commenced to fly," although drones from virgin queens were flying before. Such drones may be worthless, but the proof in this case would be more satisfactory if he had shown that his queens would have been fertilized at an earlier date if normal drones had been flying. In other words, would any other drones have been better at that time?

## Canadian Beedom.

Conducted by "BEE-MASTER."

### That Ontario Foul Brood Report.

On page 174 is a long article from Mr. Clarke on my "Foul Brood Report." I see that Mr. Clarke has kept about as far from the real facts of what led to the burning of the three foul-broody colonies in his apiary, as it was ever possible for any man to do. I also see that he has made several statements that are not truthful. In the last few years I have examined hundreds of apiaries in the province of Ontario, and got the foul-broody colonies cured by an army of men, and I am very much pleased to say that all of my dealings with everyone has ended in the most pleasant way, with the exception of Mr. W. F. Clarke and two other men that did not, and would not, do their duty; and then I had to force the law with them for the public good.

In 1892 I burned 3 foul-broody colonies of bees for a man

that I could not get to do his duty. The next time I went back to see if the disease was breaking out in any of his other colonies, he would not let me into his bee-yard. I went at once to the police magistrate in Stratford, and after he read the Foul Brood Act, he wanted me to have the man brought before him and fined for not letting me into his bee-yard to examine his colonies of bees, but I did not want to be hard on the man, and refused to do so. The magistrate said that I was the sole judge, and that the Act gave me the power to burn the diseased hives of bees. He then sent a constable with me and told him, "If that man interferes with the inspector while he is burning the diseased colonies of bees, take him at once." The man had cleared out before I returned with the constable, and I then examined his colonies and found them all right.

In 1893 I burned 15 hives with bees for another man that would not even try to cure his foul-broody colonies. I had written to him and warned him that I would have to burn his diseased colonies if he did not cure them, but it was all no use; he took legal advice, and was determined to prevent me from burning his foul-broody colonies. I heard of it and went to the police magistrate in Strathroy for help to force the law for the public good. As soon as the police magistrate read the Act, he said that I had the power to burn every diseased hive of bees. The magistrate then sent a policeman with me to the diseased apiary, and he kept two men back, while I piled up 15 colonies that were in a horrid state with foul brood and burned them.

I always explain very fully to every man that has foul-broody colonies of bees, how to cure them, and then give him every possible chance to do so, but when he will not cure, and is so careless and indifferent about it that he doesn't care whose apiary would get ruined by his diseased colonies, then there is nothing left for me but to strictly force the law for the public good, by burning every one of his foul-broody colonies. Mr. Clarke knows just as well as I do that I am the sole judge, and have the power to burn, but if he had any doubts on this point he will now see that I am in the right when he reads the rulings on it, of the two police magistrates.

Before 1891, Mr. Clarke sold the balance of his old stock of bees and part of his old combs, and of course was practically out of bee-keeping after that until he bought a new stock of bees. One man at Elora, who bought 10 colonies of Mr. Clarke's old stock, found them very bad with foul brood when he examined them. He then burned up the whole 10 foul-broody colonies, and told other men about the diseased stock Mr. Clarke sold to him. Mr. Clarke had still some of his old stock of combs left, so he went to Mr. Tovall, in Guelph, who had a large apiary, and was an old man, and very poor. He urged Mr. Tovall to buy his old combs which had a lot of dead brood in them. Mr. Tovall refused to buy them at first, saying that he did not like the looks of them. Mr. Clarke then said that he would sell them cheap, and said if he would put swarms on them, that the bees would soon clean them out. Mr. Tovall bought them, and he told me that the Rev. Clarke was the cause of all his trouble, as he had sold him the combs that started the foul brood in his apiary.

In 1891 Mr. Clarke bought a new stock of bees, and started bee-keeping again. Then I had to go to his apiary, and examined every one of his colonies to see if they were free from foul brood. I made a thorough examination of every colony, and found them free from disease. In the same locality I found a very badly diseased colony, owned by a lawyer; I burned it at once, so as to prevent Mr. Clarke's colonies from getting foul brood from it. Mr. Clarke's bees were gathering honey then, but he said that when the season closed robbing would set in, as there was an apiary a mile from there. Mr. Clark told me then that he was sure that Tovall's bees had foul brood, and wanted me to go and examine his apiary at once. As I intended to go through Guelph soon after that, I did not go just then to Tovall's apiary, but took the train for another diseased locality. I received a letter in a few days after that from Mr. Clarke, demanding me to come on to Guelph at once, and look after Tovall's apiary. I went, and found his apiary of 80 colonies very badly diseased with foul brood. I asked Mr. Tovall to kill off a few of the very worst of his foul-broody colonies, and make wax of the combs, and then to put the rest of his time in curing his other diseased colonies. Mr. Tovall went to work like a man, and did every thing I told him, so as to get his diseased apiary cured, which he was depending upon very much. While poor, old Mr. Tovall was working very hard curing his apiary, I got another letter from Mr. Clarke, to come again and look after Tovall. I went again to Mr. Tovall's apiary, and saw that for a man of his years he had done wonders. Mr. Tovall then told me all about how he had gotten foul brood from combs that the Rev. Clarke sold to him. Mr. Tovall made a grand

cure of his large apiary, and I was very much pleased with the way he did his duty. Mr. Clarke says that he knew that the apiary of 80 colonies had the disease badly, for he could smell it from the sidewalk. I don't know that he could smell it from the sidewalk, but I do know that he has been blamed for selling the combs to the owner of it, that gave it foul brood.

Mr. Clarke says that during the following summer (meaning 1892) he had notified me that the disease had appeared in his apiary. I positively declare that he did not do anything of the kind. He wanted Mr. Gemmill and me in his apiary on a certain day when he was going to have the students there from the Agricultural College. Mr. Gemmill and I got there before the students did. We examined one nice colony of bees that Mr. Clarke thought a good deal of. I spotted one cell of capped brood that did not look right—it had no "pin-hole" in the capping, but the capping of the cell was sunk in a little. I pointed at it, and said to Mr. Gemmill, "This cell doesn't look right." I then uncapped it, and Mr. Gemmill shouted "Foul brood!" as soon as he saw the foul matter. "Yes," I said, "it is genuine foul brood." That colony had only a few foul cells.

I then went to the south side of his apiary, and examined his other colonies, and found three or four with foul brood; two of them had the disease pretty badly. This was early in 1892.

I then warned Mr. Clarke well, to go to work in the honey season (which was about starting), and cure his 4 or 5 diseased colonies. I explained to him very fully how easily he could cure them, and as it was to Mr. Clarke's interest to do so, I fully expected him to go to work and cure his few diseased colonies. When I went back in the fall to see if Mr. Clarke had cured the 4 or 5 foul-broody colonies, I found that he had never done one thing that I had told him to do, and that things had gone from bad to worse, and every one of his colonies had gotten into the most rotten mess with foul brood for the time, of any that I ever saw. Mr. Clarke must have been using some old foul-broody combs, or done something terrible to get all of his colonies into such a horrid state with foul brood, in that time.

If Mr. Clarke's apiary had been near any other, I would have burned every one of his diseased colonies in the fall, when I went back and found them not cured. Mr. Clarke's colonies were the only ones in that locality that had foul brood then, and they did not get it from any bees there.

Mr. Clarke says that he was trying the phenol treatment, and that I wished him to become convinced that it was no good, so let him go on with it. I positively declare that I never did anything of the kind, and did not know until the fall that he had tried it. So Mr. Clarke should not form any *untruthful excuses* for not curing his diseased colonies by my methods of treatment, which I never consented to have set aside for him or any one else.

I offered that fall (1892) to go to Mr. Clarke's and cure one of his worst colonies at one stroke with combs of sealed honey, which I would furnish him free of cost. I offered to do that on condition that Mr. Clarke was to take the colony out of his diseased apiary, and bring it up to his home to be treated there, where it would be away from the disease. Mr. Clarke promised me faithfully to do so. I then wrote to Mr. Gemmill to express 6 combs of sealed honey to Mr. Clarke, and I would mail him \$6.00 for them. Mr. Gemmill did the best he could, and sent a Heddon half-story full of very pretty combs. He also wrote me when he would send the combs! I went from my home to Guelph—about 55 miles—and was there when the train arrived with the combs of honey from Mr. Gemmill. And so was Mr. Clarke. Then I found that Mr. Clarke was not a man of his word. He would not stand by his promise and bring the colony up to his home to be treated where it would be away from his other diseased colonies. I felt pretty blue over that, as I knew the risk was too great to depend upon curing one colony right among his other colonies that were rotten with foul brood.

But as he was bound to have the colony cured right among his diseased ones, I took the Heddon half story then, and away we went to his apiary. I examined the combs very closely in the Heddon half story that Mr. Gemmill sent, before I put Mr. Clarke's bees on them, and found some cells at the bottom of the combs not sealed, and a few empty cells. I then said to Mr. Clarke that if brood-rearing was started in the very few empty cells at the bottom of the combs before the bees consumed the honey that they took with them from the old combs, that some of it would be fed to the larvae and then the disease would break out again. The queen could have been caged among the nice sound combs that Mr. Gemmill sent, until the bees consumed all the diseased honey that they took with them from the old combs. But I did not cage the

queen, as I expected that colony to get the disease in the spring by robbing at some of his other very foul-broody colonies. I never would have bought those combs and gone all the way to Guelph, if I had known that Mr. Clarke was going to break his promise, and would not have the test made up at his home, away from the disease, but would be determined when he got me there to have the test made right among some of the worst cases of foul brood that I ever saw.

I went back in the following spring (1893), when the robbing season was about over, and examined the combs in the Heddon half story, which I put the bees from the diseased colony into the fall before, and I found only 3 cells of foul brood in it, and these might have been caused by the bees robbing at some of his diseased colonies. I then cut out the piece of comb that had the 3 diseased cells, and said to Mr. Clarke that I would make a perfect cure yet, with these combs that Mr. Gemmill sent, if he would carry out my orders with that colony. He said, "O yes, I will."

I told him then that I would buy a good, strong colony from Mr. Emigh, and have it expressed to him. I explained to him what he was to do with the bees from Mr. Emigh, when they came, and for fear of any mistakes being made, I put it in writing, telling him to cut all the brood and eggs out of the colony that we were treating, and then cage the queen for several days, and as soon as Mr. Emigh's colony arrived, to destroy its queen and then put all of its bees into the one we were treating, so that we would succeed in getting a good cure made, after all, from the combs that Mr. Gemmill sent. I also wrote Mr. Emigh a long letter, telling him everything about the whole business.

When Mr. Clarke got the colony from Mr. Emigh, he divided its bees up and put them in a dozen of his colonies that were dying with foul brood, and then told Mr. Emigh's son, at the College, that it was a fine, strong colony of bees that his father had sent him, and that he had strengthened up a dozen of his colonies with it, by putting all its bees into them. Mr. Clarke wrote me then that he put the bees all into the colony that we were treating. I did not know for some time after that, that Mr. Clarke had taken the bees that I paid for to be used for a test case, and put them into his dying colonies.

On May 22, 1893, I wrote to Mr. Clarke that if he would hurry up and get his new frames and comb foundation, that I would go to his place and cure his apiary myself, early in the honey season. I also wrote telling him that I had written to the Myers brothers to let him have his supplies as cheap as they could when he sent them his order. Mr. Clarke never answered my letter until June 23, and then he was not ready, and hadn't gotten the frames or foundation. I then made up my mind not to bother any more with Mr. Clarke, but to help all I could in other places where the people were very anxious to have me come and show them how to cure their diseased apiaries. Mr. Clarke had the disease in his apiary in 1892, 1893, and 1894, and then I had to burn his colonies for the public good, when I could not get him to do his duty.

I mailed Mr. Gemmill \$6.00 for the Heddon half story of combs that he expressed to Mr. Clarke. Mr. Gemmill did not want to charge me one cent, and after that he wanted to give me back the money, which I would not accept, as I always stand by what I offer.

Mr. Emigh sold me a great colony of bees for \$5.00, which was very cheap. He did it to oblige me. I spent \$11.00 on Mr. Clarke's apiary, and I can truthfully say that I never was so deceived or humbugged by any man in my life, as I have been by Mr. W. F. Clarke. That colony that I examined on the College grounds did have foul brood, and I can prove it, and I believe that Mr. Clarke himself admitted to another man that it had the disease.

Mr. Clarke wonders if I can explain who took combs out of one of his colonies and piled them up. I cannot, and Mr. Clarke knows that as I live over 50 miles from Guelph, it would be impossible for me to know. But I will say this, that if any person did as he says, such conduct cannot be too strongly condemned. I don't care how unpopular any man may be, no person should destroy one cent's worth of his stuff.

WM. McEVoy, Foul Brood Inspector.

Woodburn, Ont., Canada, March 25, 1895.

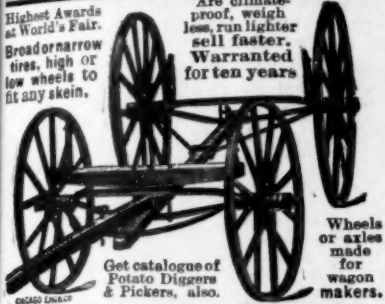
[As both Mr. Clarke and Mr. McEvoy have now been permitted to tell their stories, the matter will end right here, so far as the American Bee Journal is concerned. There are too many practical bee-contributions on my desk now, awaiting publication, to use further space in these columns on personal controversies, a continuance of which are always useless, and extremely offensive to the majority of readers.—THE EDITOR.]



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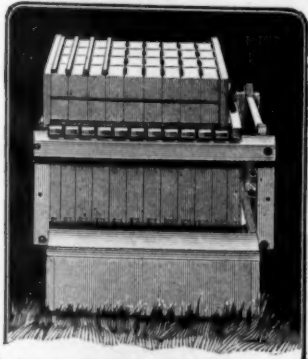
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## General Items.

### Cause or Source of Honey-Dew Honey

Since noticing Messrs. Stanley & Son's defense of honey-dew honey, I will come to the front again with my question that failed to be answered some time ago, viz.: Of what is honey-dew honey made? and from where does it come? I hope bee-keepers will rally to this question, and give us their ideas of this much-abused article. I shall first look out for Jennie Atchley's answer—maybe because she is sorter home folks. As the "Old Reliable" covers almost all matters pertaining to bees and honey, let her cover this matter of honey-dew honey. A. H. WEBSTER.

Walnut Springs, Tex.

### Bee-Keeping in Northern Wisconsin.

To-day is clear and sunshiny, with a cold north wind blowing. The mercury stood at 2 degrees above zero this morning.

Bees were put in Nov. 5, and have wintered well so far, but I am anxious for a warm day so they can be taken from the cellar and have a flight. I would then return them to the cellar until warm weather came for good.

The intensely cold weather of the first ten days of February did not seem to injure the bees, although the average for the ten days was 32 degrees below zero. The temperature of the cellar was about 40 degrees.

Bee-men will soon be buying their summer supplies. Let me warn them against buying thin hives. I bought a lot of hives made of ¾-inch pine lumber, and it was hard to keep them warm enough to allow brood-rearing in the spring. Again in the fall, although I got my bees in early, the water was running from the bottom-boards, and the walls were wet; while the hives made of inch stuff were perfectly dry. The walls are so thin and cold that the moisture condenses, thus keeping the combs and bees damp.

Bees in this locality cannot usually be taken out until about April 5 to 10. Honey retails at a shilling. Times seem to be too close for people to spare money for what they consider honey to be—a luxury.

ED. GOODRICH.

Cylon, Wis., March 8.

### Back from California.

FRIEND YORK:—Once more I tread my native heath, and thank God for safe deliverance from a journey of nearly 5,000 miles. I by no means regret the trip, but on the other hand rejoice, and can truthfully say it was the most enjoyable event of my life.

Among the most interesting features of the journey were the city of Denver and the snow-capped Rocky Mountains in the distance, Pike's Peak prominent among the range; beautiful Colorado Springs, and Gateway to the Garden of the Gods; historic Pueblo, and the wondrous "Grand Canyon of the Arkansas." This wondrous freak of nature is certainly one of the greatest of its kind in the known world, and lucky are those who can have the opportunity of gazing upon these almost perpendicular walls and rugged acclivities towering in their awful grandeur to their dizzy heights above.

I also passed through Leadville, celebrated as the city above the clouds, being nearly 11,000 feet above sea level. The atmosphere at this point seemed very rare. We also passed through Salt Lake City and valley, and the valley of the Humboldt, but as snow was falling rapidly, we could see but little of interest. At Truckee, in the Sierra Nevada range, I encountered 8 feet of snow on a level, and from thence there was said to be 45 miles of snow-sheds, but as these points were passed after night, I was unable to see anything of interest to report.

At 5:30 the following morning we were

in Sacramento, the capital of California. Here could be seen beautiful green lawns and semi-tropical plants, being quite a contrast from the scenes of but a few hours previous. The following morning at 7:30 I gazed upon the beautiful mecca of Southern California—Los Angeles. It would be inopportune to go into detail of my trip, as so much has been said previously about this beautiful country, yet I have thought since my return that the half has never been told.

I must, however, acknowledge the compliment of being made an honorary member of the California State Bee-Keepers' Association while in Los Angeles. I look upon it as the extension of the right hand of fellowship to the State I have the honor of representing, more than any personal achievements on my own part. The California State Bee-Keepers' Association is a wide-awake society, and has a galaxy of able and hard-working members at the head, who are alive to the best interests of the pursuit.

J. M. HAMBAUGH.

Mt. Sterling, Ill., March 4.

### Death of a Devoted Wife.

It is with sadness that I write in relation to our bereavement—the sudden death of my wife, who has been a companion for 37 years, a devoted Christian, a mother of seven children, four of whom have gone on before her. She died March 14, at the age of 62 years. Her death was very sudden and unexpected. La grippe, together with ulceration of the lungs, was the cause.

Rolla, Mo.

WM. ROBSON.

### Wintering—Depth of Frames.

There is not one colony in 20 of the farmer's bees in this county now alive. Those who make it a specialty, and cellar their bees, and who supplied them with enough stores last fall, have their bees in good condition.

In recent articles in the American Bee Journal, in reference to depth of frames, the most serious objection to the 11¼-inch frame has not been noted. The objection is this: It breaks and melts down easily. Four horizontal wires won't prevent this. Were it not for this, it far excels the 9¼-inch frame. Bees winter better on them, and are stronger colonies than on the 9¼-inch frame.

W. C. FRAZIER.

Atlantic, Iowa, March 19.

### Fire Stricken District in 1894.

Apiculture in this section of the country did not flourish during the season of 1894 according to expectations, but wide-awake bee-keepers who watch the elements as well as the condition of their apiary, did realize a fair yield of honey after all. The opening of the season was not very favorable for bees, the month of April being backward and cold. May was intermixed with cool and warmer days, and cold wind. Bees did not breed very strong until the forepart of June. During that month the season advanced very fast, to such an extent that basswood bloom developed at least a week earlier than usual, with a plentiful flow of nectar, which lasted over two weeks, not so overflowing, but steady right along. White clover did not yield much to build up colonies in a natural way.

At the close of the basswood season our bees had a season of rest, because we had no rain from May (to speak of) until September. During the month of August, in this section of country, the suffering that both man and beast, and our bees, had to undergo no one can tell, nor never has been told, not even through the columns of our "old reliable" American Bee Journal. Strange to think not one bee-keeper ever hinted at the fate which stared in our faces during the last days of August and the first days of September, threatening destruction to life and everything around us. For weeks the black smoke was so thick and dense that our vision was prevented to view an object hardly ½ mile off, caused by

forest fires around us. Nothing green could be seen neither in field nor meadow. Our bees, accustomed to early morning flight in search of nectar, returned empty and mournful to their homes, clustering around the entrances, informing their keeper that something was wrong—and so it was.

The first days of September proved to be memorable days to many as long as life lasts. Many towns, both in Wisconsin and Minnesota, were utterly consumed, with a passenger train, and the human lives lost and property has been told by the secular press, and among this property were also many bees, that had been taken with emigrants to such sections where pasture for bees was plenty. I have no knowledge of any large apiaries, but facts are such that bees were kept by families in said sections in smaller number of colonies, and all was consumed by devouring flames, 50 to 60 feet high in places, driven by a strong wind, causing swift destruction; and very strange, not the least mention was made by any bee-keeper in the Bee Journal. And this destruction-bringing element would have consumed and laid waste a much larger territory in its onward march, had not Providence sent a heavy rain to extinguish the flames.

After this sad calamity, and refreshing showers, nature began to revive again. Fall flowers that had been on the point of developing, began to come out in full bloom, especially golden-rod and wild asters. And Dame Nature proved so good and kind in yielding her sweets in such fulness, that the busy bees filled their empty hives almost in less than no time, for winter stores in abundance—yea, even surplus. I do not overdraw nor misrepresent in saying that my fall crop of surplus proved equal to that of the forepart of the season. Yea, even more, over 4,000 pounds from 120 colonies proved the result of labor and toil of both bees and bee-keeper.

STEPHEN ROESE.

Maiden Rock, Wis.

#### Had a Very Cold Winter, Etc.

We are having (March 1) a very cold winter, with more snow than we have had in any winter for several years, but I haven't lost any colonies yet. I have 50 packed in chaff on the summer stands. I notice that they have thrown out nearly three pints of dead bees from some of the hives. Some bee-keepers have lost all.

I would like to have E. S., of Eddy, N. M., (see page 135) report through the American Bee Journal what kind of a winter they had, whether they have many sudden changes in the spring. Do they have any hot waves in summer? What is land worth near Eddy or Roswell?

Dayton, Ky.

J. W. S.

#### Wintering Bees in the Cellar.

We have had a very severe winter in this section—two months steady cold, and quite a portion of that time severe cold, with strong, biting winds, sort of blizzard-like; plenty of snow, and drifted badly. Only one short thaw one day during the two months. Yesterday and to-day have been more comfortable. It is too early to report on bees yet, as I do not know anything about them, only my own, which I have examined to some extent in the cellar, as I winter them there, and have for several winters past with very good results. I placed in the cellar last fall 109 colonies, all in good condition. A part of them I put in Dec. 1, and the remainder Dec. 24, and just before the severe storm from the northeast here. I left them out later than usual, as I had to move them some distance, and the weather was favorable to leave them out. In fact, I prefer to leave them out as late as will answer, in order to have them use all the unsealed honey in the combs, otherwise bees will not winter well with me, in the cellar or anywhere else, and I do not see how people can winter their bees when they feed so much liquid sweet in the fall.

My cellar has been very frosty some of

the time, but not cold enough to freeze anything. In fact, we have placed an oil-stove in the cellar when the coldest, which would melt the frost, but would leave it very damp, consequently my hives have become quite damp, which creates mold to some extent, and my hives are not ventilated at the top at all. I used to raise the top pieces a little all around, when the hives were placed in the cellar, but late years I do not ventilate at the top at all, and the bees came through the winter in prime condition.

I take the hives from the summer stand, place them in the cellar four hives high, therefore 100 or more hives will not need very much room. I place the bees in the cellar myself, and always do so, and prefer to for various reasons, which I may explain sometime.

H. F. NEWTON.

Whitney's Crossing, N. Y., Feb. 28.

#### Putting Bees Out of the Cellar.

I noticed on page 179, that M. M. Baldrige, of St. Charles, Kane county, Ill., says his bees are in the cellar (Feb. 21), and he will place them on the stands the first warm spell, and let them remain on the stands. He says that is the practice of the Fox river bee-men. I am living 15 miles north of St. Charles, have 60 colonies in the cellar, and I do not intend to put them on the summer stands until April 15 or 20.

J. E. FARRELL.

Dundee, Kane Co., Ill.

#### Removing Propolis from the Hands.

Here is another recipe for removing propolis from the hands:

Take some soapine and a little water, rub the hands together until lather is produced, then wash the hands in water, and the propolis is removed.

You may think that soapine is rather strong, and that it may hurt the skin. No, it will not. I have often used a little soapine and water, rubbed until a white lather was formed, and then washed my face with it. Use water freely to rinse it off with, and you are all right. Try it.

Quincy, Ill.

B. W. HAYCK.

#### The Hive He Prefers.

Having read what Dadant, Root, and others have written about the size of hives and frames, I will give my ideas on the subject. My hive is 14½ x 15½ x 10½, inside measure. The extreme length of the top-bar is 16½ inches. The hives are about square, counting from the inside of the end-bars, and the bees can cluster in the center at an equal distance from the ends and sides. For this country, where the honey-flow is not large, and where the blizzards are at times severe, I think it will be just the hive. I intend to use a surplus box 5x4½ x 2 inches. I have used the Langstroth frame, and for this region I think it too long, and not quite deep enough to keep stores for the bees in the center of the hive, where the winters are long. I think many colonies are lost by not being able to get to the stores in the end of the hive in very cold weather.

WM. H. EAGERTY.

Cuba, Kans.

#### Something from an Old Bee-Man.

I have had five attacks of la grippe and lung fever the past five years, and these repeated attacks have very much lessened my vitality. I have pulled through, but they have left me very much reduced. I was not in my apiary from June 1 till Sept. 1, 1894, and I then found that the bees would have to be fed to winter. We have had three poor years for honey, but the past year was one of the few total failures in this locality.

I have taken a great deal of pleasure in working with and studying the habits of the honey-bee from boyhood. I have been working with the bees since 12 years of age, and I am now well along in my 81st year—almost, or quite, 70 years a bee-keeper. Now if there is any older bee-

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15A4 C. H. DIBBERN, Milan, Ills.



keeper in the ranks, just trot him out, and I will with pleasure hand over the belt.

I have past through all the changes, from the king-bee and hollow log to the present time. I have been a very successful honey-producer. I have had no other aim than the production of honey and the study of the habits of the honey-bee, in which I have taken a great deal of pleasure. I have never produced any zebra queens to sell, but I have bought a few queens to infuse new blood in my hybrids. I have never had any use for a bee-veil or any other protection, notwithstanding my bees are mostly the vicious, incorrigible hybrids; for honey-production I want no other—they are just as amiable as the Italians, that is, mine are. I fail to notice any difference. They will all sting if you invite them to. A bee can tell a coward as far as she can see him, and gets after him just to see him run. Worthington, Ohio. A. S. GOODRICH.

#### Loss of Bees in Ohio.

The loss of bees throughout Ohio is great. More than half of them have disappeared. Wm. BALLANTINE.  
Alta, Ohio, March 19.

#### Colonies Whooping Strong.

My 18 colonies of bees are all whooping strong. I never put any in-doors, but always leave them on the summer stands, and never lost a colony as yet. I make outside cases, and there they are, packed in leaves, winter and summer. I have it so that I can put supers inside, and close it over. I never keep over 18 colonies.

HENRY WHITE.  
Bradgate, Iowa, March 20.

#### Deep Brood-Frames Again.

I have noticed that some are inclined to deep frames. My experience with hives as to size would be, 15½x13 and 11½ inches deep from extreme top to bottom, with a ¾ bee-space at the bottom, and a ¼ space at the top. No more shallow frames for me. I think the standard hive is a "hobby" without a very large percentage of practical advantages.

My bees are wintered on the summer stands, and of 11 colonies I have 11 left. I never have lost a colony yet. It is on account of the preparation they receive on going into winter quarters. I always put on clover litterings off the barn floor on top of the brood-frames 4 to 6 inches deep, and all is O. K. My frames have a 12¼-inch bottom-bar, and side-bars 10¼.  
Ellis, Mich. CARSON VAN BLARICUM.

#### Montana Called For.

I have watched for some time for bee-notes from Montana. Who can tell us something of the soil, climate, flora, and probable success of bee-culture in the Flat Head valley?  
B.

#### A Boy's Experience with Bees.

Having read the letters of many boy bee-keepers, I thought I would try to give our bee-experience.

In 1891 I found a bee-tree from which we took a washboiler full of honey and a large swarm of bees, which was the beginning of our apiary. In 1892, papa bought two weak colonies, one of which died, and in 1893 we worked for as much increase as possible, and found another bee-tree. On about June 10, 1893, the colony which I had found first swarmed, but as soon as the swarm left the hive, it began raining, and before we could get them under shelter, they were as wet as drowned rats; but papa swept them into a pan and took them upstairs, where he put them on a cloth near the entrance of a hive, which had a comb of young brood and honey in it. The bees soon got warm and dry, for they were near the stovepipe, and began going into the

hive. They were soon all in, and now it is a strong colony, which belongs to me.

In the spring of 1894 we had 10 colonies, and increased to 16, and got about 250 pounds of clear white honey. We found three more swarms, two of which we put together, and gave the other away. From the last bee-tree we cut we took six water pails jam-full of honey.

We leave our bees on the summer stands. I will try to do my best with my colony, and report again if this is not dumped into that "big basket."

THEODORE K. SATTLER.  
Glenwood, Oreg., March 17.

#### Section Covers—Bee-Brushes.

We use the common oilcloth for our section covers, and we find it the best cover we have tried. Our bees are blacks and Italians. We like the Italians very much, but we cannot tell which gathers the most honey, because they are mixed. I think we have as many Italians as blacks.

For a home-made bee-brush, I think a few small branches from a Russian pine-tree would be sufficient for brushing off bees when they settle on a stump or body of a tree. Of course, these brushes would not do for brushing off the bees from the frames. We do not have much to do with extracted honey—we only deal with comb honey. I do not think a brush made from animals' hair, or even a feather from a fowl, would be a good one. It will work all right, but I think it makes a bee cross to be brushed with a feather. Take a bee when she is in good humor, and brush her with a hair a few times—it will not take her long to "change her tune."

Savanna, Ills. CHAS. D. HANDEL.

#### Adulteration—Basswood in the South.

Permit me to say amen to the recommendation headed, "Properly label the adulteration," page 179. "Them's my sentiments" exactly, Mr. Jenkins. Why should vendors of adulterated honey not be restricted by law the same as those of "oleo" and other spurious wares? Is there any justice in permitting this base imposition upon an unsuspecting public, to the disgust of the deceived purchaser, and the detriment, and ultimate death of, honest production?

As none of the many who are better qualified by reason of their long residence in this State, have noticed the question as to how far south basswood would grow, I would say that I have seen quite a number of large, thrifty basswood trees growing in the hammocks of this (Volusia) county. It is said to yield honey, though my informant could not give the exact season of bloom.

H. E. HILL.  
New Smyrna, Fla., March 20.

#### Convention Notices.

MINNESOTA.—The regular semi-annual meeting of the Southern Minnesota Bee-Keepers' Association will be held on the first Monday in May, 1895, at LaCrescent, Minn. All bee-keepers invited.  
E. C. CORNWELL, Sec.  
Winona, Minn.

ILLINOIS.—The spring meeting of the Northern Illinois Bee-Keepers' Association will be held at the residence of H. W. Lee, in Pecatonica, May 21, 1895. It will be held one week later if it is a stormy day.  
B. KENNEDY, Sec.  
New Milford, Ill.

#### RUDY'S PILE SUPPOSITORY

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#### Honey & Beeswax Market Quotations.

CHICAGO, ILL., Mar. 18.—Demand is good for all grades of honey excepting dark comb. We quote: Fancy comb, 15c.; No. 1, 14c. Extracted, 5½@6¼c. J. A. L.

CHICAGO, ILL., Mar. 7.—During the past two weeks a good movement has been felt in the market. Sales have been in small lots, but quite frequent. We quote: White comb of the highest grade, 14c.; off in color, 13@13½c.; yellow, 10@11c.; dark, 7@9c. Extracted, 5½@7c.—the higher price for white in 60-lb. cans.  
Beeswax, 28@30c. R. A. B. & Co.

KANSAS CITY, MO., Mar. 14.—Demand is fair for comb and extracted. We quote: No. 1 white, 1-lbs., 14@15c.; No. 2 white, 12@13c.; No. 1 amber, 11@12c.; No. 2 amber, 10@11c. Extracted, 4½@6¼c. Beeswax, 22@25c. C. C. C. & Co.

CINCINNATI, O., Mar. 19.—Demand is slow for extracted and comb honey, with a fair supply. We quote: Comb honey, 13@16c. for best white. Extracted, 4@7c. Beeswax is in good demand at 25@28c. for good to choice yellow. C. F. M. & S.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., Apr. 1.—Choice white clover honey is getting very scarce at 14c. Dark and poorly filled sections, 8@10c. Demand is falling off on extracted, prices ranging from 4½@7c. Strictly pure white clover very scarce at 10c. Beeswax arriving more freely and selling at 30@31c. W. A. S.

NEW YORK, N. Y., Feb. 20.—We are gradually working down our stock of comb honey, and the indications are that we will succeed in disposing of all of the white honey and possibly all of the dark during the spring, at following quotations: Fancy white, 1-lbs., 12c.; fair, 10c.; buckwheat, 8@9c. The market is well supplied with extracted honey. Demand is fair for choice grades, while common stock is neglected. We quote: White clover and basswood, 5½@6c.; buckwheat, 5@5½c.; Southern, 45@55c. per gallon, according to quality. Beeswax firm and in good demand at 30@31c. H. B. & S.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Mar. 16.—The honey market is getting quite well cleaned up here. We quote: Fancy, 13@14c.; choice, 11@12c.; buckwheat and commoner grades, 7@8c. Extracted is in very light demand here, and we would not advise shipments. B. & Co.

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Most of whom Quote in this Journal.

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J. A. LAMON, 43 South Water St.  
R. A. BURNETT & Co., 163 South Water Street.

##### New York, N. Y.

F. I. SAGE & SON, 183 Reade Street.  
HILDRETH BROS. & SEGELKEN,  
28 & 30 West Broadway.  
CHAS. ISRAEL & BROS., 110 Hudson St.  
I. J. STRINGHAM, 105 Park Place.

##### Kansas City, Mo.

C. C. CLEMOMS & Co., 423 Walnut St.

##### Buffalo, N. Y.

BATTERSON & Co., 167 & 169 Scott St.

##### Hamilton, Ills.

CHAS. DADANT & SON.

##### Philadelphia, Pa.

WM. A. SELSER, 10 Vine St.

##### Cincinnati, Ohio.

C. F. MUTH & SON, cor. Freeman & Central avs.

**Bee-Keeping for Profit**, by Dr. G. L. Tinker.—Revised and enlarged. It details the author's "new system, or how to get the largest yields of comb or extracted honey." 80 p.; illustrated. 25c.

## Doctor's Hints

By DR. PEIRO, Chicago, Ill.  
100 State Street.

### Honey or Butter—Which?

So much is being written in farming and dairy journals in regard to tuberculosis (consumption) of cows, and questioning the value—rather the danger—of butter as a food from these diseased sources, that one is naturally led to consider a safer, cheaper and healthier substitute. And where shall we find it except in good, pure honey? In this substance we may feel perfectly secure from any and all diseases. Its nourishing properties are certainly equal, and for many, greater than that of the best butter. Honey, used in moderation, would prove as palatable, and its possession as practical, and at no greater cost, if not cheaper, than butter. If the price of the cow, feed required, attention needed, and consequent labor in obtaining butter is contrasted with an equal outlay in space and expense for bees, I believe it will be found that the total in expenditure and income will vary but little, and that in favor of the little workers. Let some brother who has gone to school since I have, figure out the problem, and give us the benefit of his deductions.

Of one fact I feel possessed of—that if this question is presented to the unimpaired vote of our children, "honey" will get the grandest nomination and enthusiastic election ever vouchsafed a candidate for public favor!

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Mrs. A. A. SIMPSON, Box 48, Swartz, Pa.  
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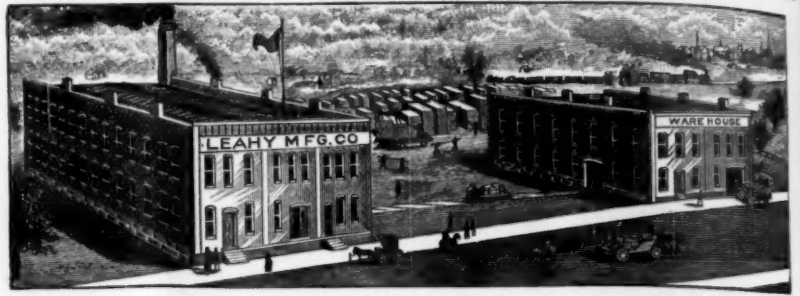
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Prof. J. W. Rouse. Price 25 cents; if  
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## Question-Box.

In the multitude of counsellors there is safety.—Prov. 11-14.

### How Much Convention Time Should be Given to Essays?

**Query 966.**—What proportion of the time of a convention is it best to have occupied with essays?—Missouri.

C. H. Dibbern—None at all.

G. M. Doolittle—About one-tenth.

H. D. Cutting—It depends upon how long and dry they are.

Mrs. L. Harrison—One for each session, and plenty of recesses.

W. G. Larrabee—Just enough to provoke enlightening discussions.

Jas. A. Stone—Essays, if not exceedingly good, had better be "few and far between."

B. Taylor—I do not know. I only know that general talk and discussion pleases me best.

Jennie Atchley—I believe a convention ought to be for bee-keepers to talk, and send essays to the bee-papers.

Chas. Dadant & Son—One-fourth, or even less. Let them have very short essays, just to introduce the subjects.

Dr. J. P. H. Brown—That depends upon the merits of the essays, and the length of time the convention is to be in session.

P. H. Elwood—All of the time, unless the discussions can be well managed, and the time occupied by persons who are careful what they say.

R. L. Taylor—Only just sufficient so that the rest of the time may be occupied by intelligent discussion. About one-tenth of the time is usually sufficient.

Mrs. J. N. Heater—All depends upon the nature and quality of the essays. A few, short, well written ones, on practicable subjects, are just the thing to open discussions.

Eugene Secor—That's forbidden territory. The fellows that run conventions must be allowed to judge. But I think it depends upon many things which I have no room here to discuss.

Dr. C. C. Miller—If the right men are there, it's better to have no essays. If no one present knows anything about bees, the time might all be taken up with essays written by some others that do know.

Rev. M. Mahin—That depends upon so many things that no rule can be given. Much would depend upon the character of the essays, and much upon what the convention could do if there were no essays.

E. France—Short essays to bring out discussion are all right. The essay is the thought of one man, the discussions are the thoughts of many. Short essays, or perhaps questions, would be better than long, flowery essays.

Jas. A. Green—As a rule, only enough to keep things moving. Often, any essays at all will be only a waste of time, comparatively speaking. With a good man in the chair, and an inclination on the part of members to talk freely on practical subjects, and keep to the point, essays had better be omitted altogether.

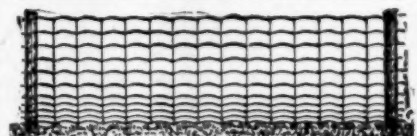
Prof. A. J. Cook—I would have each subject opened with a short, terse, carefully-prepared essay—say 10 to 15 minutes long, and discussed for 40 to 45 minutes. That is the way we run our farmers' institutes, and they are rousers.

Wm. M. Barnum—None. Let them appear in the bee-papers. Let the "question-box," discussion of practical topics, confined to short, off-hand "talks," and social "friend making" be the objects and work of the conventions.

Rev. Emerson T. Abbott—That depends upon the essays. Generally speaking, I should say about as much as the people who make up the convention want. Some want more, some want less, and some do not want any. Let them have what they want.

J. E. Pond—This is purely a matter of opinion. For myself, I should like three or four only, on really practical points, as texts for discussion and criticism. The whole aim and object of a convention is to get together socially, and "swap talk on bees."

G. W. Demaree—I don't know that it matters much. Our bee-conventions are more social "reunions" than anything else, and any course that will entertain best, I should judge to be the best. I never go to a convention to learn anything—I go to meet old friends, and make new ones.



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